**Activity report**

Site: **Basona Woreda, Debre Birhan Zone office of Agriculture**

*I: Description of the activity*

What is the nature of the activity?

**2nd Innovation platform (IP) meeting**

What were the objectives of the activity?

* **To update and get feedback from IP members on Meher-season Africa RISING (AR) research activities on Participatory variety selection (PVS), Community-based seed multiplication, yield gap, livestock feed development and highland fruits**
* **To get inputs and to discuss on the type of technologies selected on AR annual review meeting for the pre-scaling up work**
* **To recap on the structure and function of IPs since this was the first IP meeting since establishment and collect baseline stakeholder linkage information for IP monitoring and evaluation**

Who organized/originated the activity?

**Africa RISING** **Site coordinators, IP technical group members and ILRI researchers**

Date of the activity- **February 07-2015**

*II: Participation by IP actors in the activity (attach IP register for verification)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Number of organizations or actors grouped by the type of organization** | **Number** |
| Number of male farmers | 2 |
| Number of female farmers | 0 |
| Number of research organizations (Local and International) | 3 |
| Number of policy organizations (including Zonal Woreda or kebele offices) | 4 |
| Number of NGOs | 2 |
| Number of farmer groups (clusters) represented | 2 |
| Number of private sector organizations | 0 |
| Number of other groups and specify (e.g. farmer organizations, women group, youth group etc.) | 0 |

*III: Narrative description of the activity (Around 300 words)*

Briefly describe the key elements of the activity-What went well and what did not go well?

**The meeting was organized at the Zone Office of Agriculture based on the agreement reached by IP members to host the meetings in rotation. As a first IP meeting after establishment, members were not well informed about the action research that is being conducted since 2014 rainy (Meher) season. The meeting was instrumental on updating AR research activities. Pre-scaling up options were debated whereby local actors expected AR to go beyond technical support and leverage resources for the work. It was mentioned that this is an issue that needs to be discussed at a higher level and any feedback will be shared on subsequent IP meetings.**

**Seed shortage was presented as to be big challenge for the pre-scaling up work. A research protocol Debre Brehan Agricultural Research Center (DBRC) submitted to Africa RISING on developing irrigation facility for seed production using a big, un-operational water reservoir but haven’t got a response yet.**

* **Presentation of AR research work supported by photos particularly sensitized local policy makers- The Woreda Office of Agriculture head and vice head, Woreda vise- administrator and Debre Brehan research center director were on the meeting**
* **Some methodological questions from IP members on protocols such as on yield gap, fertilizer and PVS trials couldn’t get enough answer as there were only ICRAF and ICARDA representatives on the meeting.**

What key ‘next steps’ emerged from the activity

* **Debre Brehan Research Center to continue leading on the irrigation facility research protocol but the IP to oversee and follow-up on the progress on funding and implementation**
* **To further develop the scaling up strategy at the center level but with close consultation with IP memebers/local partners**
* **In collaboration with IP technical group members to organize practical oriented trainings for farmers but this need to wait up until the way forward is clear on existing research work- after june**